

More Than Shade

Build a strong idea with facts that show why it matters.

6.10.B.ii “developing an engaging idea reflecting depth of thought with specific facts and details;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main idea in paragraph 1, circle six specific facts or details that develop it, and number three details that explain why the idea matters.

More Than Shade

- ① On a hot afternoon, a city tree does more than make a sidewalk prettier. Its leaves block sunlight, while water released from the leaves cools the air. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that shaded surfaces may be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than surfaces in full sun. This matters most near bus stops, playgrounds, and apartment buildings, where people may have little access to air conditioning. Planting trees is a practical way to make crowded neighborhoods safer during heat waves.
- ② Trees also help cities handle heavy rain. When rain hits bare pavement, it rushes into storm drains and can carry oil, trash, and soil toward streams. A tree's leaves catch some rainfall, and its roots help water soak into the ground. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that, over its lifetime, one large healthy tree can intercept thousands of gallons of stormwater. For a neighborhood that floods near an intersection, trees cannot replace drains, but they can be one useful part of a larger plan.
- ③ Still, planting a tree is not the same as caring for one. Young trees need regular water, protection from lawn mowers, and enough soil for their roots to grow. Cities should choose species that fit the local climate and avoid placing large trees under power lines. Residents can report damaged trees and help water newly planted ones during dry weeks. A tree plan that includes planting, care, and community help shows deeper thinking than a promise to add green spaces.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the writer's main idea about planting city trees?

2 Identify two specific details from paragraph 1 that make the writer's point about heat more convincing.

3 How does paragraph 2 add a new reason to support the main idea? Use one detail from the paragraph.

4 Which idea in paragraph 3 shows deeper thinking than simply saying, "Plant more trees"? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-paragraph about one improvement your school or community should make. State your idea, include at least two specific facts or details, and explain how the improvement would affect people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main idea in paragraph 1, circle six specific facts or details that develop it, and number three details that explain why the idea matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main idea about planting city trees?	Planting and caring for city trees can make crowded neighborhoods safer by cooling areas and helping manage rain.
2	Identify two specific details from paragraph 1 that make the writer's point about heat more convincing.	Shaded surfaces may be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler, and trees are especially helpful near bus stops, playgrounds, and apartment buildings.
3	How does paragraph 2 add a new reason to support the main idea? Use one detail from the paragraph.	It explains that trees help with heavy rain because leaves catch rainfall and roots help water soak into the ground. One large healthy tree can intercept thousands of gallons of stormwater over its lifetime.
4	Which idea in paragraph 3 shows deeper thinking than simply saying, "Plant more trees"? Explain why.	A tree plan should include planting, care, and community help. This shows deeper thinking because trees need water, protection, space for roots, and ongoing care to survive.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack near the main entrance. At dismissal, I counted twelve bicycles leaning against the fence, and rain leaves seats and chains wet. A rack with a roof would keep bikes organized and dry, so more students could ride without searching for a place to park.

Accept answers that identify a clear improvement idea, include at least two concrete details, and explain why the details support the idea. Details may come from the student's observations, counts, or accurate knowledge.